

**From:** KarlNKlein@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:08pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the current antitrust settlement plan envisioned by the Department of Justice against Microsoft Corporation. This is one of the most significant antitrust actions ever undertaken by our government, and after a thorough bench trial and subsequent appeals, the federal government has come to a settlement agreement so weak that countless businesses and 9 states, representing a significant portion of this country's population, have stood in opposition to its many questionable provisions.

One key problem is the settlement's limitation to companies "in business for profit." Open source software has the potential to be a great threat to Microsoft, yet the settlement will not afford such tech community efforts any protection from a company that has, on the facts, been found to be an illegal monopolist. To say that an illegal monopolist's actions only affect other profit businesses currently trying to compete with it, is to ignore the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that is a foundation of our country and society. Microsoft has violated our antitrust laws in its attempt to market a product for a device that is changing our world. Very few matters are bigger or more important, yet this violation is rewarded with a settlement agreement which appears to actually make future control of the same market easier! The belief that the DOJ would actually embrace such a "punishment" is incredulous. I urge you to reject the current Settlement Offer and either allow the courts to fashion the proper legal response as they see fit, or for you to develop a realistic settlement plan that addresses this and the other legitimate concerns raised during the public comment period.

Yours,  
-Karl